

instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus implement the functions specified in the flowcharts blocks.

[0074] Accordingly, blocks of the flowcharts support combinations of means for performing the specified functions. It will also be understood that one or more blocks of the flowcharts, and combinations of blocks in the flowcharts, can be implemented by special purpose hardware-based computer systems which perform the specified functions, or combinations of special purpose hardware and computer instructions.

[0075] In an example embodiment, an apparatus for performing the methods of FIGS. 5, 6 and 7 above may comprise a processor (e.g., the processor 70, the processor 94, the policy module 78, the policy provision module 97) configured to perform some or each of the operations (500-520, 600-610, 700-705) described above. The processor may, for example, be configured to perform the operations (500-520, 600-610, 700-705) by performing hardware implemented logical functions, executing stored instructions, or executing algorithms for performing each of the operations. Alternatively, the apparatus may comprise means for performing each of the operations described above. In this regard, according to an example embodiment, examples of means for performing operations (500-520, 600-610, 700-705) may comprise, for example, the processor 70 (e.g., as means for performing any of the operations described above), the processor 94, the policy module 78, the policy provision module 97 and/or a device or circuitry for executing instructions or executing an algorithm for processing information as described above.

[0076] Many modifications and other embodiments of the inventions set forth herein will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which these inventions pertain having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the inventions are not to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed and that modifications and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. Moreover, although the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings describe exemplary embodiments in the context of certain exemplary combinations of elements and/or functions, it should be appreciated that different combinations of elements and/or functions may be provided by alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In this regard, for example, different combinations of elements and/or functions than those explicitly described above are also contemplated as may be set forth in some of the appended claims. Although specific terms are employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

1-35. (canceled)

36. A method comprising:

analyzing data of at least one policy, the data of the policy comprising information instructing one or more communication devices regarding a manner in which to behave according to one or more designated network conditions as designated by a network operator;

applying the policy in response to detecting that a load of a network is increased or that the network is congested; and

enabling behavior in the manner designated by the network operator according to the applied policy in response to detecting the increased load or that the network is congested to minimize a congestion in the network.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein detecting comprises receiving content from a network device of the network operator indicating the increased load in the network or that the network is congested.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein detecting that the network is congested comprises determining that the content indicates that a plurality of communication devices are communicating in the network exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

39. The method of claim 36, wherein detecting the increased load or that the network is congested comprises detecting barring or blocking of access to a cell of the network or one or more neighbor cells of the network.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein detecting the increased load or that the network is congested comprises detecting one or more received signals from the network device indicating an additional back-off time in response to at least one request for one or more resources.

41. The method of claim 36, further comprising:

selecting a lower bit rate coding scheme corresponding to one or more applications utilizing adaptive coding in response to the applying of the policy.

42. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processor; and

at least one memory including computer program code configured to, with the at least one processor, cause the apparatus to perform at least the following:

analyze data of at least one policy, the data of the policy comprising information instructing one or more communication devices regarding a manner in which to behave according to one or more designated network conditions as designated by a network operator;

apply the policy in response to detecting that a load of a network is increased or that the network is congested; and

enable behavior in the manner designated by the network operator according to the applied policy in response to detecting the increased load or that the network is congested to minimize a congestion in the network.

43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the memory and computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

detect the increased load or that the network is congested by receiving content from a network device of the network operator indicating the increased load in the network or that the network is congested.

44. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the memory and computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

detect that the network is congested by determining that the content indicates that a plurality of communication devices communicating in the network exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

45. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the memory and computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to:

receive the content by receiving the content from the network device on a Radio Resource Control or a Non-Access Stratum level.

46. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the memory and computer program code are configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to: